



ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, September 24, 1992 -- Freight traffic on the nation's railroads remained sluggish during the week ended September 19, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported today.

Railroads originated 339,901 carloads of freight during the week, down 0.7 percent from the comparable week in 1991, said Dr. Harvey A. Levine, vice president of the AAR's Economics and Finance Department. Loadings were off 3.1 percent in the East, but up 2.1 percent in the West.

In spite of the overall decline in carloadings, Dr. Levine noted that a 6.4 percent increase in intermodal volume, which is not included in carloadings, "is a continuation of a consistent weekly trend throughout 1992." In all, railroads originated 142,887 trailers and containers, the second highest weekly total ever reported.

The AAR estimated overall freight traffic for the week at 21.4 billion ton-miles, virtually the same as during the comparable 1991 week.

For the first 38 weeks of 1992, the AAR reported total carloadings of 12,262,112, up 1.2 percent from the comparable period a year ago. Intermodal volume totaled 4,773,365 trailers and containers, up 7.3 percent from 1991. Total freight volume was estimated at 771.1 billion ton-miles, up 2.8 percent from the first 38 weeks of 1991.

Railroads reporting to the AAR account for 94 percent of carloadings and 97 percent of intermodal.

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 19, 1992

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP					
COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 19, 1992	COMPARISON WITH			
		SAME WEEK OF 1991	CHANGE	PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	25,375	28,649	-11.4 %	23,807	6.6 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	1,272	1,873	-32.1	1,321	-3.7
Metallic Ores	17,047	17,234	-1.1	17,323	-1.6
Coal	129,583	132,023	-1.8	117,567	10.2
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	16,407	14,867	10.4	13,954	17.6
Nonmetallic Minerals	9,662	9,960	-3.0	8,067	19.8
Grain Mill Products	10,009	10,011	0.0	9,526	5.1
Food & Kindred Products	9,509	9,317	2.1	7,869	20.8
Primary Forest Products	9,616	9,279	3.6	7,849	22.5
Lumber & Wood Products	5,685	5,678	0.1	4,791	18.7
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	11,122	10,299	8.0	10,330	7.7
Chemicals	29,291	27,200	7.7	27,316	7.2
Petroleum Products	5,853	5,258	11.3	5,301	10.4
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	10,515	9,774	7.6	8,818	19.2
Coke	5,732	5,436	5.4	5,108	12.2
Metals & Products	9,532	10,271	-7.2	8,622	10.6
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	18,485	18,847	-1.9	14,820	24.7
Waste & Scrap Materials	9,005	8,989	0.2	7,485	20.3
All Other Carloads	6,201	7,268	-14.7	5,771	7.5
Total	339,901	342,233	-0.7 %	305,645	11.2 %

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES						
TRAFFIC	WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 19, 1992			CUMULATIVE: 38 WEEKS ENDING SEPTEMBER 19, 1992		
	1992	1991	CHANGE	1992	1991	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	339,901	342,233	-0.7 %	12,262,112	12,117,622	1.2 %
Intermodal Traffic Originated						
Trailers	72,572	67,648	7.3	2,361,437	2,282,310	3.5
Containers	70,315	66,607	5.6	2,411,928	2,165,710	11.4
Total	142,887	134,255	6.4	4,773,365	4,448,020	7.3
Estimated Ton-Miles						
Class I Railroads (Billions)	21.4	21.4	0.0 %	771.1	750.1	2.8 %